

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 IO-10 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

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DRAFTED BY S/NM:JRAFFERTY:0B

APPROVED BY S/NM:S0VANCE

EA/TB:GROBERTS (SUBS)

EA/RA:WGALLAGHER (SUBS)

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P 312021Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 180983

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, BM

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM

REF: STATE 174694

FROM VANCE

1. WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE VISIT OF COL. AUNG HTAY AND HIS PARTY WAS A SUCCESS AND THAT I AND MEMBERS OF MY OFFICE WERE MOST ENCOURAGED BY IT. WHILE THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT COL. AUNG HTAY IS EXTREMELY SECURITY CONSCIOUS AND DISCREET, HE DID PROVIDE ME WITH INFORMATION AND GENERAL OUTLINE OF GUB'S PROPOSED PLANS FOR THEIR INTERDICTION CAMPAIGN AGAINST NARCOTICS PRODUCERS AND TRAFFICKERS. THEIR PLANS AND SERIOUSNESS OF PURPOSE WERE MOST ENCOURAGING. SOME OF THESE PLANS ARE EXTREMELY SENSITIVE. THEREFORE, COL. AUNG HTAY DID NOT WISH BROADCAST THEM ABOUT DUE TO SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS. THE VERY FACT THAT COL. AUNG  
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HTAY AND HIS PARTY CAME TO THE U.S. CAN BE CONSIDERED A SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT.

2. YOU SHOULD NOT DEFER ANY REASONABLE BURMESE REQUEST FOR

EQUIPMENT STATING THAT THERE ARE NO FUNDS AVAILABLE UNTIL NEXT FISCAL YEAR. RATHER, PLEASE FORWARD ASSISTANCE

REQUESTS ON TO US SO THAT WE MAY CONSIDER THEM AND DO THE BEST WE CAN TO FUND THEM. IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT FUNDS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE BUT I CERTAINLY DON'T WANT TO DISCOURAGE THE BURMESE OR SHUT DOWN THE BURMESE MOMENTUM ON THEIR OPERATIONS AGAINST NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS. ON THE CONTRARY, I FEEL WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE THEM TO DO ALL THEY CAN AND AS QUICKLY AS THEY CAN. FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR WE HAVE REQUESTED DOLS. 42.5 MILLION AND WE ARE PLANNING TO SET ASIDE FOR BURMA APPROXIMATELY DOLS 13 MILLION, PROVIDED CONGRESS GRANTS US THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF FUNDS REQUESTED WHICH SHOULD COVER 12 ADDITIONAL BELL 205 HELICOPTERS, THE F-27, THE 100 NIGHT VISION DEVICES AND THE COMMUNICATIONS PACKAGE. IN THE EVENT THEY DON'T, WE WILL HAVE TO READJUST THIS FIGURE. THEREFORE, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT BURMESE, WHEN MAKING ADDITIONAL REQUESTS, NOT FEEL THAT WE CAN AUTOMATICALLY AND IMMEDIATELY DELIVER THE EQUIPMENT REQUESTED. HOWEVER, EVEN IF FUNDS ARE NOT AVAILABLE, WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO ENTERTAIN BURMESE REQUESTS HOPING FOR FUND AVAILABILITY OR THAT THEY CAN BE PROVIDED IN THE EARLY PART OF THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

3. AS FOR THE ORDERING OF THE NEXT INCREMENT OF BELL 205 HELICOPTERS, I ALSO PLAN TO LOOK INTO THIS MATTER CLOSELY. WHILE PRODUCTION SPACES MAY BE OPEN NOW FOR DELIVERY NEXT JANUARY, IF WE DO NOT OBLIGATE THE MONEY SHORTLY, WE HAVE NO PRIORITY ON THE PRODUCTION LINE AND ANY GROUP -- PRIVATE OR GOVERNMENT -- CAN POSTPONE OUR DELIVERY DATES IF THEY COME IN WITH THE READY CASH FOR ACTUAL ORDERS. I WOULD, THEREFORE, URGE THAT YOUR STAFF SUBMIT THE NCAP AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, GIVING US THE REQUIREMENTS FOR NOT ONLY BELL 205 HELICOPTERS, BUT ALSO FOR LIGHT OBSERVATION HELICOPTERS/BELL 205 MIX WHEN KNOWN SHOULD THE BURMESE GOVERNMENT REQUIRE THIS COMBINATION.

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4. REALIZING GREAT DEAL OF TRUST IN BURMESE INTENTIONS IS REQUIRED TO KEEP THE MOMENTUM OF THIS PROGRAM GOING, IT WILL BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL TO ALL OF US HERE IF THE EMBASSY COULD CONTINUE REPORTING AS FULLY AS POSSIBLE ALL TRENDS AND INDICATIONS OF BURMESE ATTITUDES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE INTERDICTION CAMPAIGN. THERE ARE SOME WHO DOUBT THE BURMESE INTENTIONS BUT I AM RELYING HEAVILY ON THE EMBASSY'S AND THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY'S ASSESSMENT THAT THE BURMESE GOVERNMENT IS ALREADY TAKING AN ACTIVE ROLE AND PLANS TO CONTINUE ITS INTERDICTION OF NARCOTICS OPERATIONS IN BURMA. THIS SITUATION IN BURMA REMINDS ME OF A PARAPHRASE OF FRANZ WEIGEL'S FAMOUS STATEMENT ON MIRACLES: TO THOSE THAT KNOW BURMA, NO EXPLANATION IS NECESSARY. TO

THOSE THAT DON'T, NO EXPLANATION IS POSSIBLE. INGERSOLL

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